

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the Application of:	:	Confirmation No.:
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Rodney James DRY et al.	:	Group Art Unit:
	:	
Serial No.:	:	Examiner:
	:	
Filed: April 12, 2004	:	
	:	
For: DIRECT SMELTING PLANT	:	
AND PROCESS	:	
	:	McLean, Virginia
	:	April 12, 2004

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed contemporaneously with the filing of a new United States patent application on April 12, 2004. Please amend the application as indicated below.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin at page 3 of this paper.